

REMARKS

Claims 26-31 remain in the application.

Claims 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 on the basis that the “valve member” and “piston” are double inclusions of the “hydraulic amplifier arrangement.” The valve member and the piston member are separate members which co-act during initial mechanical movement of the valve member by the piston member; however, the hydraulic amplifier includes a hydraulic circuit for moving the valve member hydraulically relative to the piston member. Clearly, there is no double inclusion of components.

Claims 26-28 were rejected over Boecking. The Examiner admits that the reference does not suggest the “decoupling”. Accordingly, claims 26 and 28 have been amended in pursuit of reciting that difference and to avoid the Examiners view that the claims merely set forth functional limitations, it being appreciated that the method claims are entitled to merely set forth functional steps.

Claims 29-31 are newly added and clearly set forth the recognized novelty of decoupling and hydraulic amplification.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. Applicant believes that no fees are due; however, if any become required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit

Appl. No.: 10/802,275
Amdt. dated May 12, 2005
Reply to Office action of February 18, 2005

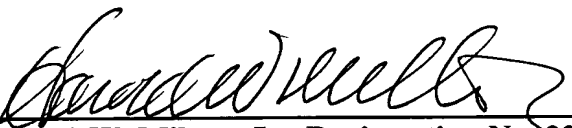
Account 08-2789. Further and favorable reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

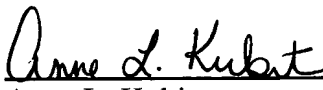
May 12, 2005

Date


Harold W. Milton, Jr., Registration No. 22,180
The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite #101
39400 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304-5151
(248) 723-0352

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this **Amendment** for U.S. Serial No.: 10/802,275 filed March 17, 2004 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **May 12, 2005**.


Anne L. Kubit

HWM/alk
G:\B\Becker Kurig\p00006\Patent\Amendment 12-10-03.doc